

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: pao@sd.ngb.army.mil

Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

139th BSB returns home with pride

By Sgt. Jackie Fitzgerald
SDNG Public Affairs

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Soldiers of 139th Brigade Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, were surrounded by family and friends during their welcome home ceremony Saturday, May 18 at the Swiftel Center in Brookings.

The 139th, comprised of Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas, deployed in July for a yearlong mission as a Logistics Task Force to provide supply, maintenance and transportation support to U.S. forces in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn.

“Less than a year ago we gathered to send these brave men and women away to a distant, foreign land,” said Gov. Dennis Daugaard, during the ceremony. “It was a day of great sadness and also great pride. Today, that pride is bursting at the seams and our sadness has been replaced with joy!”

Daugaard read a long list of achievements the unit completed that included; 13 forward operating base closures, transportation of 31 million pounds of cargo and 6,500 personnel by land and air, 376 maintenance jobs completed, recovered more than \$315,000 of lost property and more than \$2 million in miss-shipped property, and in one re-supply mission, saved the Joint Task Force \$6 million dollars.

“Our deployment was a resounding success,” said Lt. Col. Tony Verchio, 139th Logistics Task Force commander. “It was a level of success in which we should all be proud of these great men and women.”

While the leadership praised the 139th for their work during the deployment, they also recognized the support of family and community members. Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, said the support from the family, friends and employers helped make the mission a success.

“When a unit returns like this it lifts a huge burden from the families left behind,” said Reisch. “I want to personally thank the spouses and the family members who have gone a year without the companionship of their Soldier. Your contribution to this deployment was huge.”

Sgt. 1st Class Joel Rassel, a mechanic in the 139th from Woonsocket, agreed that family support was a huge factor for him while overseas.

“This ceremony is nice,” said Rassel. “We are able to publicly thank our families and friends for all they have done to support us. It’s a great ending to a great mission. The Soldiers in this unit put in so much energy and went above and beyond. They deserve some time to get back to their families.”

High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard
Additional stories and information are online at www.facebook.com/southdakotationalguard



120518-A-CW157-060: South Dakota National Guard's Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, applauds the Soldiers of 139th Brigade Support Battalion for a job well done, during their welcome home ceremony on May 18, 2012, at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, S.D. The 139th, comprised of Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas, deployed in July for a yearlong mission as a Logistics Task Force to provide supply, maintenance and transportation support to U.S. forces in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



120518-A-CW157-139: Sgt. Jeffrey Carr, of Redfield, holds his 4-month-old son, Noah, while his mom, Sarah, photographs the two together during the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion's welcome home ceremony on May 18, 2012, at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, S.D. The 139th, comprised of Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas, deployed in July for a yearlong mission as a Logistics Task Force to provide supply, maintenance and transportation support to U.S. forces in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



120518-A-CW157-150: Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Schnee, of Tea, holds his 4-year-old daughter, Jenna, during the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion's welcome home ceremony on Saturday, May 18 at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, S.D.. The 139th, comprised of Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas, deployed in July, for a yearlong mission, as a Logistics Task Force to provide supply, maintenance and transportation support to U.S. forces in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



120518-A-CW157-222: Spc. Scott Loveland, of Spearfish, holds his 4-year-old son, Asher, as his wife, Cathy and daughter Mia, 8, look on during the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion's welcome home ceremony on May 18, 2012, at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, S.D. The 139th, comprised of Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas, deployed in July for a yearlong mission as a Logistics Task Force to provide supply, maintenance and transportation support to U.S. forces in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



120518-A-CW157-409: Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion stand as they are officially deactivated during their welcome home ceremony on May 18, 2012, at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, S.D. The 139th, comprised of Soldiers from the Brookings, Redfield, Watertown, Miller, Mitchell, Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas, deployed in July for a yearlong mission as a Logistics Task Force to provide supply, maintenance and transportation support to U.S. forces in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn. (SDNG photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail pao@sd.ngb.army.mil.